



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
INDEPENDENCE DRUG USER SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., meth user was sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing a firearm.

Ray E. Clevenger, 29, of Independence, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to one year and three months in federal prison without parole for being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

On July 9, 2004, **Clevenger** pleaded guilty to being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Clevenger** admitted that he was in possession of a Jennings 9 mm pistol on Oct. 17, 2003. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any addict or user of a controlled substance to be in possession of a firearm. **Clevenger** was a methamphetamine user at the time he possessed the pistol, Graves said.

Clevenger was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on April 6, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow